financial health of SEBs has necessitated the need for reform. A consensus was reached in the Conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held in March, 2001 on the need to depoliticise power sector reforms and speed up their implementation. The Government of India has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with twenty one States. The MOUs are a joint commitment of the Centre and the States to undertake reforms in a time bound manner. The State Government commitment in these MOUs include setting up of the State Electricity Regulatory Commission, 100% metering of 11 KV feeders and all consumers, energy audit, reduction of technical and commercial losses, achievement of commercial viability in distribution etc. Government of India has committed its support through additional allocation of power from Central Generating Stations and financial assistance for strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution as well as for renovation and modernisation of thermal and hydel power plants. 12 State Electricity Regulatory Commissions have passed tariff order which reflect a trend towards tariff rationalisation.

Gram Bank Scheme

2597. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the basic objectives of "Gram Bank" scheme;

(b) what is the total number of villages, State-wise covered under this scheme;

(c) what is the total investment; and

(d) the State's share in it?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development do not have any Scheme called as "Gram Bank" Scheme.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Review of anti-poverty programmes in Rajasthan

2598. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the implementation of all the anti-poverty programmes in the State of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the achievement made in terms of physical and financial targets;

(c) what shortcomings in each programme were noticed; and

(d) the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The physical and financial performance of the Poverty Alleviation Programmes of the Ministry *viz.*, the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY), the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), the Desert Development Programme (DDP) and the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) during the year 2001-02 in the State of Rajasthan is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The shortcomings noticed under various poverty alleviation programmes of the Ministry in Rajasthan are as under:—

EAS— The utilisation of available funds was 42.14% upto January, 2002, but increased to 73.88% by February, 2002, indicating uneven expenditure.

SGSY— 2nd instalment could not be released to 3 districts of Sirohi, Karoli and Baran due to Audit Objection and excess Opening Balance.

NOAPS— 2nd instalment could not be released to 2 districts, namely, Jaisalmer and Sirohi as Audit Reports/ Utilisation Certificates or proposals were not furnished.

DDP— Barmer district with 32 projects was not eligible for further release of funds due to low expenditure. The Guidelines of the Scheme have not been followed fully.

(d) The Ministry have been impressing upon the State Government to implement all the Schemes in full earnest and utilise all the funds for effective implementation of the Schemes. The Ministry have also

introduced a four pronged strategy, comprising creation of awareness, transparency, people's partnership and Social Audit through Gram Sabhas for better implementation of the Schemes.

Statement

Performance of Poverty alleviation programmes

Year : 2001-02

(Rs. in Lakh)

Programme	Total Funds Available	Total* Exp.	Physical Achieve-ment	Unit
JGSY	9183.11	7235.31	61.88	Mandays in Lakhs
EAS	9523 39	7035.53	61.10	Mandays in Lakhs
SGSY	3579.87	2729.43	27777	No. of Beneficiary
IAY	4958.32	3913.89	33227	No. of House Completed.
NOAPS	127.29	1414.62	101030	No. of Persons Assisted
DDP	8164.26	6463.75	2914	No. of Watershed Sanctioned
DPAP	1195.13	1100.95	561	No. of Watershed Sanctioned
IWDP	1040.72	0.00	1123	No. of Watershed Sanctioned
TOTAL	37772.09	29893.48		

*upto February, 2002